

ANIMAL SERVICES – COH/FAQ

1. Who responds to animal service issues in the City of Hughson?

The Stanislaus Animal Services Agency through a joint powers agreement provide services to six members and jurisdictional areas (Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, City of Ceres, City of Patterson, City of Waterford and the City of Hughson). Additional information on SASA programs and services can be found at www.stanislausanimalservices.com.

2. Does the City of Hughson have a dog-leash law? If so, who enforces it?

The Hughson Municipal Code (HMC) states that no owner of any animal, wild or domestic, except a domestic cat, shall permit or suffer the animal to (1) be off a leash or be restrained by a leash which is more than eight feet in length, except while on the premises of its owner or other private property with consent of the owner, lessee and/or tenant; (2) enter upon private property without the consent of the owner, lessee and/or tenant of the private property; (3) habitually make loud noises; or (4) act in such manner so as to constitute a public nuisance. Violations of the City's animal restraint provisions of the HMC can also be reported directly to SASA at 209.558.7387 or by completing and submitting a Complaint Form (<http://www.stanislausanimalservices.com/pdf/complaint-form.pdf>). In all cases, reports with detailed information (incident, parties involved, types of animals, etc.) will result in the best outcome. Local law enforcement can, when possible, also help with compliance of the law.

3. Are pet owners required to pick up after their pets at local parks, sidewalks, private property, etc.?

Animal service laws in Stanislaus County and its incorporated cities encourage pet owners to be responsible. Picking up after their pets at local parks, sidewalks and private property is a good example of a responsible and courteous pet-owner. Many public parks have dog waste pick up station to help encourage this responsible behavior.

4. How are barking-dog issues handled in the City of Hughson?

The most common complaint about dogs is the noise they make. This SASA web page offers you ways to resolve your neighborhood dog disputes by staying on relatively good terms with your neighbors.

Barking is a natural, normal dog behavior. Dogs bark to communicate as well as to release pent-up energy. But barking can be managed. Some reasons for barking are:

- Boredom
- Separation anxiety
- Stress
- Fear
- Dogs bark at things they cannot see.
- Dogs bark because they can't get to what they can see.
- And, sometimes they bark because of all these reasons.

[Follow this link for more helpful tips to address a barking dog \(owner or a neighbor\).](#)

5. What can a resident do if they lose their dog or if they see a lost dog roaming?

Residents are encouraged to contact SASA at 209.558.7387 to report their lost dog or if they see a lost dog roaming. Many residents also choose to post information on social media which has proven to be an effective method of sharing information. A licensed and micro-chipped pet improves the chances of finding a lost pet's owner.

6. What are the rules for aggressive dogs and how are dog bites handled? Who should be contacted in emergency situations?

Per the Hughson Municipal Code (Title 6 – Animals), whenever an animal suspected of being potentially dangerous or vicious is reported to the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency (SASA), an investigation will be conducted to determine the circumstances of the incident, any corrective action deemed necessary, and penalties associated with a violation. Incidents can be reported directly to SASA at 209.558.7387 or by completing and submitting a Complaint Form (<http://www.stanislausanimalservices.com/pdf/complaint-form.pdf>). During emergency

situations, residents are directed to dial 911 to ensure the most immediate response by public safety agencies.

7. Is there a dog park in the City of Hughson?

There is currently no public “dog park” in the City limits of Hughson. That said, the [Hughson Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Commission](#) is exploring “dog parks” and has directed City staff to gather information and research how they have been installed in other local cities.

8. Are there any rules that apply for cats?

Per the Hughson Municipal Code, cats can roam freely within the City limits. This is consistent with the rules in place in Stanislaus County and all its incorporated cities.

9. What is the Cat “TNR-Trap-Neuter-Release” Program?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the humane approach to addressing community cat populations, works. It saves cats’ lives and is effective. TNR improves the lives of cats, addresses community concerns, reduces complaints about cats, and stops the breeding cycle. TNR improves the co-existence between outdoor cats and humans in our shared environment.

The Stanislaus Animal Services Agency is able to offer the TNR-Program through a grant and partnership with the [Best Friends Animal Society organization](#).

10. Are dogs required to be licensed in the City limits of Hughson? Spay/Neutered?

Licensing your dog is taking the first step in assuring the health and safety of your dog. The law requires all dogs over the age of four months to be licensed. The license helps everyone know that your dog is a member of the family and loved.

If your dog gets lost, a license tag on your dog's collar is one of the fastest methods to reunite you and your dog. Licensing lets people know that your dog companion has received required

vaccinations that protect your dog from rabies. Your dog's license shows that you are a responsible dog owner.

[Follow this link for more information regarding licensing your dog \(application, fees, etc.\)](#)

Dogs are not required to be spay/neutered although it can greatly reduce your annual license fee. The Stanislaus Animal Services Agency also offers a [spay and neuter program](#) (dogs and cats) for low income households. The spay and neuter program targets unaltered dogs and cats. To be eligible, residents must show proof of low-income and reside within the unincorporated areas of Stanislaus County, and the cities of Modesto, Ceres, Patterson, Waterford, and Hughson.

11. Why are there free Spay/Neuter services for certain dog breeds (Pit Bulls) in Stanislaus County?

Pit Bulls contribute the most to Stanislaus County's over pet population. As such, the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency offers special programs to reduce their numbers.

12. What is Animal Court?

Animal Court provides pet owners who have been cited for not adhering to local animal laws and regulations with an opportunity to appeal their violation to a higher authority.

[Follow this link for more information regarding Animal Court](#)

[NOTE: This Animal Services Frequently Asked Questions/FAQ was developed by the City of Hughson and the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency to assist residents and pet owners with information regarding the most common questions posed on this topic. It will be updated periodically as appropriate.]